

## 5.0 INTEGRATION WORKGROUP

The Integration Workgroup was established in 1998 in order to compliment and enhance the progress of the substance-specific workgroups. The Workgroup, comprised of interested stakeholders and the two governments, was formed to address issues relevant to the scope of the GLBTS. The Integration Workgroup met for the first time on June 9, 1998 in Romulus, Michigan, and has since met each year on a quarterly basis.

The main focus of the Integration Workgroup is to address cross-cutting issues identified within the larger stakeholder body of the GLBTS, the Stakeholder Forum, and from the substance-specific workgroups. The Integration Workgroup assists with organizational, administrative, process, and other cross-cutting issues which are relevant to but outside the scope of the substance-specific workgroups. The Integration Workgroup suggests strategic pathways forward for the GLBTS and works to ensure that the Strategy remains focused on achieving reductions of toxic substances.. The Integration Workgroup also strives to:

- broaden awareness of the GLBTS and its goals through public outreach,
- maintain a balanced, well-informed group of active stakeholders, and recruit new members, as necessary,
- receive progress reports from substance-specific workgroups on information gathered and reductions achieved based on workgroup activities,
- assess and communicate substance-specific workgroup progress toward goals,
- review, and target for attention, multi-group or multi-sector technical issues referred by the substance-specific workgroups, such as long-range transport, and provide feedback to the workgroups on recommended solutions,
- identify and develop options for resolving issues arising from differences in GLBTS implementation by the U.S. and Canada,
- serve as a central point of information about the range of ongoing toxics reduction efforts, both domestic (e.g., PBT) and international,
- identify efforts that may enhance GLBTS implementation, such as the sector-based or targeted multi-chemical approaches currently being evaluated,
- identify incentives for voluntary reductions/virtual elimination, assess the effectiveness of voluntary project approaches, and as appropriate, identify alternative pathways to achieve Strategy challenge/virtual elimination goals.

During the first half of 2002, the Workgroup met twice in Windsor, Ontario. The Workgroup conducted its first meeting of the year on February 26, and then convened again on May 30 to review the Strategy achievements and future challenges at the midpoint of the program. During the later half of the year, the Integration Workgroup met in Chicago, Illinois, on September 18 and December 4, 2002.

The Integration Workgroup meeting format typically features informational presentations from invited guest speakers on activities related to the goals of the GLBTS. The Workgroup often participates in facilitated discussions, and regularly receives activity updates and progress reports from member organizations, including the governments. At each meeting, the substance-specific workgroups provide updates with details of their progress in achieving the Strategy's goals.

## **Integration Workgroup Meeting February 26, 2002, Windsor, Ontario**

The first Integration Workgroup meeting, held on February 26, 2002, in Windsor, included a presentation entitled “Sector Subgroup Report on Findings and Discussion,” based on the results of the work of the Sector Subgroup. The Integration Workgroup then participated in a facilitated discussion based on these findings.

At the Integration Workgroup’s February 2001 meeting, the Sector Subgroup held facilitated brainstorming discussion session entitled “Transition into New Ideas,” from which emerged suggestions on new ways to move the Strategy forward. Beginning with a list of twenty-seven candidate sectors, and utilizing decision tree criteria, the Subgroup narrowed the candidate sectors to a short list of six where multiple substances could be identified. Six members of the Subgroup each presented one of the short-listed sectors, which included Automobile and Related Manufacturing, Secondary Copper Smelting, Government Facilities, Municipal Waste Combustion, Publicly Owned Treatment Works, and Electric Utilities. At the February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, six presenters representing the Sector Subgroup reported on a selected list of potential candidate sectors. The presentation addressed the potential of each sector to be a GLBTS pilot, including available information, data gaps, and willingness to participate.

The February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting also included three presentations on urban and rural emissions of toxic substances. Presentations addressed toxics monitoring and modeling on both the large scale and more regional levels. These presentations were:

- *Urban/Rural Air Toxics – Setting the Context* – Dr. S. Venkatesh, EC
- *Urban Toxics Monitoring in Chicago and New Jersey* – Todd Nettesheim, US EPA
- *Urban Toxics Monitoring in Toronto* – Dr. Miriam Diamond, University of Toronto

In addition to the sector and urban/rural toxics presentations, the Integration Workgroup was given progress updates from the substance-specific workgroups and from Integration Workgroup member, including:

- *GLBTS Communications Plan* – Madhu Malhotra, EC
- *Five Year Mid-Program Workshop May 29-30, 2002* – Madhu Malhotra, EC
- *Value Added Role of the GLBTS Respecting Contaminated Bottom Sediments* – Dave Cowgill, US EPA
- *LRT Workshop Status* – Todd Nettesheim – US EPA

## **Mid-Program Review: Strategy Achievements and Future Challenges May 29, 2002, Windsor, Ontario**

The spring Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy Stakeholder Forum meeting, held in Windsor on May 29, 2002, marked the mid-point of the Strategy’s ten-year mandate. The theme of this meeting was “Strategy Achievements and Future Challenges”. Presentations focused on a review of progress to date against the Strategy challenge goals and next steps on the road to virtual elimination.

A number of GLBTS Stakeholders gave presentations, including:

- *Reporting on the Strategy's Achievements and Challenges* – PCB Challenge, Ken De, EC; Dioxin Challenge, Anita Wong, EC; B(a)P/HCB Challenge, Tom Tseng, EC; Mercury Challenge, Alexis Cain, US EPA; and the OCS, Pesticides, & Alkyl Lead Challenges, Ted Smith, US EPA
- *GLBTS Process Allowing Imaginative Solutions by Industry* – Robert Stempel, Chairman, Council of Great Lakes Industries, and Chairman, Energy Conversion Devices Inc.
- *State of Michigan Mercury Reduction Program* – Andy Buchsbaum, National Wildlife Federation
- *The Role of Industry in the Lake Superior Binational Program* – Nick Lewis, Manager, Environment, Cascades Fine Paper
- Panel presentation on *Indicators–SOLEC In Relationship to Current Ambient Monitoring Practices and Results* – Harvey Shear, EC, and Paul Horvitz, US EPA
- Panel presentation on *Ambient Environmental Monitoring Results*:
  - Integrated Atmospheric Deposition Network (IADN) – Todd Nettesheim, US EPA;
  - National Air Pollution Surveillance Networks (NAPS) – Tom Dann, EC;
  - Sediment Monitoring of Toxics in the Great Lakes – Scott Painter, EC;
  - Mercury, PCB & Dioxin Trends in Herring Gull Eggs – Chip Weseloh, EC;
  - Trends in PBTs in Whole Trout and Salmon – Sandy Hellman, US EPA.

A special evening reception and recognition dinner was held for present and past GLBTS participants in appreciation of all of their hard work and of the progress achieved to date. Mr. John Mills, Regional Director General, Environment Canada, began the evening by delivering a welcome address to those in attendance. He offered words of appreciation and praise to all those who have worked tirelessly to move the Strategy forward. Mr. Mills' welcome was followed by heartfelt renditions of both national anthems performed by Juliana Molinari of Environment Canada. Next, Elder Eric Issac of Walpole Island First Nations offered a blessing. Elder Issac was accompanied by the Walpole Island Singers, who performed traditional songs of honour and thanks.

After dinner, Mr. Mills introduced The Honourable Herb Gray, Chairman, International Joint Commission (IJC), Canadian Section. Mr. Gray expressed his pleasure at seeing the progress made toward the achievement of the goals of the GLBTS. He noted that the IJC has always strongly supported the development and implementation of the GLBTS. Finally, Mr. Gray encouraged all stakeholders to continue to work toward the goals of the Strategy.

Following Mr. Gray, Mr. Dennis Schornack, Chairman, International Joint Commission, U.S. Section, began his remarks by sharing his observations of the strong and enduring nature of the binational co-operation to protect the shared waters of the Great Lakes. He suggested that, in the process of moving forward, attention be focused equally upon physical, chemical, and biological parameters in balance, just as a three-legged stool has each leg equally weighted to achieve balance. Mr. Schornack invited all participants to take the evening to celebrate the substantial progress of the GLBTS.

Following the words of Mr. Schornack, David Ullrich, Deputy Regional Administrator US EPA Region 5, addressed the group. He passed along regards from both US EPA Administrator Whitman and Regional Administrator Thomas Skinner. Mr. Ullrich described the monumental responsibility of the protection of the environment. He noted that through the GLBTS all participants are working toward meeting the Strategy's challenge goals. He highlighted some of the achievements of the GLBTS, including the full integration of a wide range of stakeholders blended with a unique combination of regulatory and voluntary approaches to reducing PBTs. Mr. Ullrich concluded the evening's presentations by confirming that a lasting legacy and strong foundation have been laid by the work of the GLBTS, that strong relationships have been forged, specifically citing the strength of the relationship between the two countries, and He expressed optimism that these strengths will continue to move the Strategy forward over the next five years.

### **Integration Workgroup Meeting May 30, 2002, Windsor Ontario**

The theme of this Integration Workgroup meeting was "Strategy Achievements and Future Challenges". This reflective session of the GLBTS marked the mid-point, or five-year mark, of the ten-year mandate of the GLBTS. During this session, the Integration Workgroup discussed chemicals of emerging concern to the Great Lakes Basin, potential approaches to pollution prevention within the basin, and presentations made at the previous day's Stakeholder Forum. The Workgroup also presented with progress updates.

Presentations at this meeting included:

- *Chemicals of Emerging Concern in the Great Lakes Basin* – Jim Maguire, of the National Water Research Institute
- *Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs): State of Science* – Michael DeVito, Office of Research and Development, US EPA
- *The Contribution of SMEs to Toxic Loadings* – Ian Orchard, EC

A presentation was made by Jim Maguire of the National Water Research Institute on chemicals of emerging in the Great Lakes Basin. Five classes of chemicals were discussed: Brominated Fire Retardants (PBDEs), Perfluorinated Organic Acids (POA), Medium Chain Chlorinated Paraffins (MCCPs), Polychlorinated Naphthalenes, and Silicones. Following this overview, Mike DeVito from the Office of Research and Development, US EPA, provided an in-depth discussion of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs).

The Integration Workgroup next heard a presentation by Ian Orchard of Environment Canada on Pollution Prevention, with a focus on the contribution of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) to toxic loadings. Mr. Orchard presented the results of a preliminary study to test the hypothesis that a majority of Ontario's industrial sources of toxics come from small and medium sized operations (i.e., with less than 500 employees). The Integration Workgroup discussed the necessity of a stronger focus on SMEs in relation the GLBTS level 1 substances of concern.

During the afternoon session, the Integration Workgroup reflected on the discussions of the Stakeholder Forum the previous day and on the future direction for the Strategy. The

Workgroup participated in a facilitated feedback sessions focusing on the current state and future directions of the Strategy.

The Integration Workgroup received reports from each of the substance-specific workgroups. In keeping with the reflective spirit of the mid-program review, the substance-specific workgroups presented progress to date and discussed moving beyond the current goals of the GLBTS toward the ultimate goal of virtual elimination.

### **Integration Workgroup Meeting September 18, 2002, Chicago, Illinois**

The Integration Workgroup began its fall meeting by revisiting on the work of the Sector Subgroup.

Five presentations were delivered at this meeting:

- *Rural POTW Outreach Project* – Jack Annis, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point
- *Severn Sound Initiative – Environment Canada Multiple Municipal P2 Project* – Alan Waffle, EC
- *Next Steps for Substance Workgroups: Responses to Current Level 1 Challenge Goal Queries* – Alan Waffle, EC, and Ted Smith, US EPA
- *Industrial Boiler Energy Efficiency Project* – Tim Brown and Abby Jarka, Delta Institute
- *Overview of Current US and Canadian Programs/Process for Listing PBTs* – John Menkedick, Battelle

At the May 18, 2001, Integration Workgroup meeting in Toronto, the Sector Subgroup was established as a temporary initiative to explore and develop options for a sector approach to the achievement of reductions of multiple Strategy substances. The Subgroup met throughout 2001 to identify a potential candidate sector from an initial list of 27 candidates. At the first meeting of 2002, the Integration Workgroup heard a presentation from the Subgroup on the findings of each of the six sectors; a short list of candidate sectors that it had examined in greater depth. Two sectors in particular appeared to be most promising: Publicly Owned Treatment Works and Municipalities.

Two sector pilot projects were presented to the Integration Workgroup. The first presentation was given by Jack Annis of the Solid and Hazardous Waste Extension Service at the University of Wisconsin (UW) Stevens Point. Mr. Annis received funding from US EPA in 2002 to conduct this project. The scope of this project is to work with approximately 500 small and medium sized POTWs in Wisconsin to provide knowledge of general pollution prevention, training, and to provide the necessary tools required to promote and encourage PBT reductions.

A second pilot project was presented to the Integration Workgroup on the Severn Sound Initiative. The Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) is a partnership of local municipalities in the Severn Sound area of Ontario working together with Environment Canada to protect and sustain the Severn Sound Ecosystem. The area has been identified by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and is located within a Canadian Area of Concern (AOC) (see Section 7.0). Prior to the Integration Workgroup meeting, the Sector Subgroup had held a discussion of potential ways to help information-gathering needs of the Severn Sound community, while compiling an inventory of GLBTS-related toxics in the region, as a potential sector pilot project.

Following up on the mid-program reflection begun at the May 30, 2002, Integration Workgroup meeting, the group received a status update on the progress of the GLBTS workgroups from Canadian co-chair Alan Waffle and the U.S. co-chair Ted Smith. Alan Waffle presented the status of the OCS, Pesticides, Alkyl-Lead, Sediments, and Long Range Transport Workgroups. Ted Smith presented the status of the Mercury, PCB, Dioxin/Furan, HCB/B(a)P, and OCS Workgroups.

The first meeting of the Integration Workgroup in 2003 is planned for February 25 at the Cleary International Centre in Windsor, Ontario.